

BANKING AND RAILWAY STATISTICS, IRELAND.

[DECEMBER, 1896.]

STATISTICS OF DEPOSITS AND CASH BALANCES IN JOINT STOCK BANKS; DEPOSITS IN POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS AND TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS; AMOUNT OF THE GOVERNMENT FUNDS, INDIA STOCKS, AND GUARANTEED LAND STOCK; AND BANK NOTE CIRCULATION IN IRELAND, DECEMBER, 1896; ALSO WEEKLY TRAFFIC RECEIPTS OF IRISH RAILWAYS FOR THE YEARS 1895-96; AND RAILWAY TRAFFIC STATISTICS FOR EACH OF THE TEN YEARS, 1886-95.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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1897.

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TO

HIS EXCELLENCY GEORGE HENRY, EARL CADOGAN, K.G.
 &c., &c., &c.,

LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND,

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I have the honour to submit to your Excellency the following Tables and remarks relative to Banking in Ireland, and to the amount of the Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock upon which dividends are payable at the Bank of Ireland, together with information concerning the weekly traffic receipts of the Irish Railways for the years 1895-96, and an abstract of the principal railway statistics of Ireland for the ten years 1886-95. The Tables on these subjects are in continuation of those previously issued by this Department.

The information comprised in the Tables relating to Banking and Investment Statistics consists of the total of the deposits and cash balances in the Joint Stock Banks of Ireland on the 31st of December, 1896, and on the corresponding date in each preceding year since the year 1876 inclusive, compiled from confidential returns kindly furnished by the authorities of the various banks; the balance of deposits remaining in Post Office and Trustee Savings Banks on the 31st of December of each year since the year 1876 inclusive, derived from official sources; the total amount (on 31st December in each year since 1876) of Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock,* on which dividends are

* See note (*) on page 14.

payable at the Bank of Ireland, with the amount of each description of Stock on 31st December, 1896, kindly supplied by the Governor of the Bank; and the average bank note circulation of the six banks of issue in Ireland in the month of December since 1886, compiled from the *Dublin Gazette*.

In addition to the tables here mentioned, I have inserted others affording half-yearly comparisons for 1896 and the preceding ten years under each of the heads referred to; these half-yearly comparisons tend to correct any false impression which might be caused by information collected at a period of the year when the Christmas trade produces an increased movement of money.

1. *Deposits and Cash Balances in Joint Stock Banks.*

The deposits and cash balances in the Joint Stock Banks, in December, 1896, as shown in Table I., stood at £39,238,000 (exclusive of £1,630,000 Government and other Public Balances in the Bank of Ireland), as compared with £39,008,000 at the corresponding period in the year 1895, being an increase of £230,000, or 0·6 per cent., following an increase of £1,401,000, or 3·7 per cent., at the close of 1895, as compared with the amount for December, 1894, and showing an advance of £9,467,000, or 31·8 per cent., on the amount for December, 1887, since which period, comparing December with December, there has been a continuous annual increase. It will be seen from the Table that the amount under this heading in December last was also in excess of that for December in any of the 20 years preceding 1896; it was, in fact, the highest amount yet reached. In Table I. (A) the amounts of deposits and cash balances are compared by half-years: it shows that the customary increase in December as compared with June occurred.

TABLE I.—Showing amount of Deposits and Cash Balances in Joint Stock Banks, on 31st December, 1876–96, compiled from Returns furnished by the several Joint Stock Banks in Ireland.*

DATE.	Amount.	Yearly Increase.	Yearly Decrease.
	£	£	£
1876, 31st December,	34,240,000	721,000	—
1877, "	33,050,000	—	1,190,000
1878, "	31,534,000	—	1,516,000
1879, "	30,541,000	—	993,000
1880, "	29,746,000	—	795,000
1881, "	30,161,000	415,000	—
1882, "	32,746,000	2,585,000	—
1883, "	31,340,000	—	1,406,000
1884, "	30,627,000	—	713,000
1885, "	29,370,000	—	1,257,000
1886, "	30,172,000	802,000	—
1887, "	29,771,000	—	401,000
1888, "	30,979,000	1,208,000	—
1889, "	32,968,000	1,989,000	—
1890, "	33,325,000	357,000	—
1891, "	34,532,000	1,207,000	—
1892, "	35,375,000	843,000	—
1893, "	35,852,000	477,000	—
1894, "	37,607,000	1,755,000	—
1895, "	39,008,000	1,401,000	—
1896, "	39,238,000	230,000	—

* The names and the dates of foundation of the Banks, the combined statistics of which are included in Tables I. and I. (A), are as follows:—

Name.	Estab-lished.	Name.	Estab-lished.
Bank of Ireland, . . .	1783.	National Bank, . . .	1835.
Northern Banking Company, . . .	1824.	Ulster Bank, . . .	1836.
Hibernian Bank, . . .	1825.	Royal Bank of Ireland, . . .	1836.
Provincial Bank of Ireland, . . .	1825.	Munster & Leinster Bank, . . .	1835.
Belfast Banking Company, . . .	1827.		

[TABLE I. (A.)

TABLE I. (A)—Showing amount of Deposits and Cash Balances in Joint Stock Banks, in the months of June and December, in the years 1886-96, compiled from Returns furnished by the several Joint Stock Banks in Ireland.

DATE.	Amount.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1886, 30th June, .	29,223,000	—	147,000
" 31st December,	30,172,000	949,000	—
1887, 30th June, .	29,330,000	—	833,000
" 31st December,	29,771,000	432,000	—
1888, 30th June, .	30,310,000	539,000	—
" 31st December,	30,979,000	669,000	—
1889, 30th June, .	31,205,000	226,000	—
" 31st December,	32,968,000	1,763,000	—
1890, 30th June, .	33,061,000	93,000	—
" 31st December,	33,325,000	264,000	—
1891, 30th June, .	33,700,000	375,000	—
" 31st December,	34,532,000	832,000	—
1892, 30th June, .	34,565,000	33,000	—
" 31st December,	35,375,000	810,000	—
1893, 30th June, .	34,637,000	—	738,000
" 31st December,	35,852,000	1,215,000	—
1894, 30th June, .	35,430,000	—	422,000
" 31st December,	37,607,000	2,177,000	—
1895, 30th June, .	37,491,000	—	116,000
" 31st December,	39,008,000	1,517,000	—
1896, 30th June, .	38,758,000	—	250,000
" 31st December,	39,238,000	480,000	—

2. Savings Banks.

The balances of deposits in Savings Banks consist of two groups—those in the Post Office Savings Banks which are set out in Table II., and those in Trustee Savings Banks, shown in Table III.

It will be observed from Table II. that on the 31st December last the estimated balances in the Post Office Savings Banks in Ireland amounted to £6,153,000, as compared with £5,603,000, for the corresponding date in 1895, being an increase of £550,000, which, although somewhat under the large increases in the two years immediately preceding (£634,000 in 1894, and £626,000 in 1895), is more than double the highest increase in any previous year, except 1888, since the establishment of these Banks.

TABLE II.—Showing Estimated Balances, at the undermentioned dates, in Post Office Savings Banks in Ireland; compiled from Returns furnished by the Controller, Post Office Savings Bank Department.

DATE.	Amount.	Yearly Increase.	Yearly Decrease.
	£	£	£
1876, 31st December,	1,124,000	121,000	—
1877, "	1,257,000	133,000	—
1878, "	1,336,000	69,000	—
1879, "	1,417,000	91,000	—
1880, "	1,556,000	139,000	—
1881, "	1,723,000	167,000	—
1882, "	1,925,000	202,000	—
1883, "	2,052,000	127,000	—
1884, "	2,234,000	172,000	—
1885, "	2,438,000	214,000	—
1886, "	2,703,000	265,000	—
1887, "	2,932,000	229,000	—
1888, "	3,239,000	307,000	—
1889, "	3,462,000	223,000	—
1890, "	3,723,000	261,000	—
1891, "	3,966,000	243,000	—
1892, "	4,204,000	238,000	—
1893, "	4,343,000	139,000	—
1894, "	4,977,000	634,000	—
1895, "	5,603,000	626,000	—
1896, "	6,153,000	550,000	—

Table II. (A) shows by half years, since June, 1886, the accumulation of deposits in the Post Office Savings Banks. From this Table it appears that with the exception of the first six months of 1893 there was a steady increase in each half year, the amount reaching its maximum in December last, when the balance showed an increase of £234,000 as compared with the amount in June, 1896.

TABLE II. (A).
B

TABLE II. (A)—Showing Estimated Balance, at the undermentioned dates, in Post Office Savings Banks in Ireland; compiled from Returns furnished by the Controller, Post Office Savings Bank Department.

DATE.	Amount.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1886, 30th June, .	2,592,000	154,000	—
„ 31st December,	2,703,000	111,000	—
1887, 30th June, .	2,802,000	99,000	—
„ 31st December,	2,932,000	130,000	—
1888, 30th June, .	3,128,000	196,000	—
„ 31st December,	3,239,000	111,000	—
1889, 30th June, .	3,372,000	133,000	—
„ 31st December,	3,462,000	90,000	—
1890, 30th June, .	3,585,000	123,000	—
„ 31st December,	3,723,000	138,000	—
1891, 30th June, .	3,878,000	155,000	—
„ 31st December,	3,966,000	88,000	—
1892, 30th June, .	4,069,000	103,000	—
„ 31st December,	4,204,000	135,000	—
1893, 30th June, .	4,155,000	—	49,000
„ 31st December,	4,343,000	188,000	—
1894, 30th June, .	4,687,000	344,000	—
„ 31st December,	4,977,000	290,000	—
1895, 30th June, .	5,337,000	360,000	—
„ 31st December,	5,603,000	266,000	—
1896, 30th June, .	5,919,000	316,000	—
„ 31st December,	6,153,000	234,000	—

Table III. shows the amount of deposits at the end of each year in Trustee Savings Banks.

In December, 1895, these deposits amounted to £2,075,000, and in 1896 to £2,166,000, being an increase of £91,000 following an increase of £93,000 in 1895, and £106,000 in 1894, and being the highest amount for December in any year since 1877, when the balance was £2,220,000.

[TABLE III.]

TABLE III.—Showing the Balances due to Trustees of Savings Banks in Ireland by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, at the undormentioned dates; compiled from Returns furnished by the Comptroller-General, National Debt Office, London.

DATE.	Amount.	Yearly Increase.	Yearly Decrease.
	£	£	£
1876, 31st December,	2,153,000	109,000	—
1877, "	2,220,000	67,000	—
1878, "	2,160,000	—	60,000
1879, "	2,098,000	—	62,000
1880, "	2,079,000	—	19,000
1881, "	2,042,000	—	37,000
1882, "	2,078,000	36,000	—
1883, "	2,060,000	—	18,000
1884, "	2,097,000	37,000	—
1885, "	1,981,000	—	116,000
1886, "	2,007,000	26,000	—
1887, "	2,043,000	36,000	—
1888, "	2,029,000	—	14,000
1889, "	2,042,000	13,000	—
1890, "	1,973,000	—	69,000
1891, "	1,966,000	—	7,000
1892, "	1,967,000	1,000	—
1893, "	1,876,000	—	91,000
1894, "	1,982,000	106,000	—
1895, "	2,075,000	93,000	—
1896, "	2,166,000	91,000	—

Table III. (A) gives information by half-years from 1886 to 1896 for the Trustee Savings Banks. There has been an increase of £38,000 in the half-year ended

December, 1896, following an increase of £53,000 in the preceding half-year.

TABLE III. (A).—Showing the Balances due to Trustees of Savings Banks in Ireland by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, at the undermentioned dates; compiled from Returns furnished by the Comptroller-General, National Debt Office, London.

DATE.	Amount.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1886, 30th June, .	1,994,000	13,000	—
„ 31st December,	2,007,000	13,000	—
1887, 30th June, .	2,030,000	23,000	—
„ 31st December,	2,043,000	13,000	—
1888, 30th June, .	2,012,000	—	31,000
„ 31st December,	2,029,000	17,000	—
1889, 30th June, .	2,028,000	—	1,000
„ 31st December,	2,042,000	14,000	—
1890, 30th June, .	2,035,000	—	7,000
„ 31st December,	1,973,000	—	62,000
1891, 30th June, .	1,972,000	—	1,000
„ 31st December,	1,966,000	—	6,000
1892, 30th June, .	1,958,000	—	8,000
„ 31st December,	1,967,000	9,000	—
1893, 30th June, .	1,856,000	—	111,000
„ 31st December,	1,876,000	20,000	—
1894, 30th June, .	1,940,000	64,000	—
„ 31st December,	1,982,000	42,000	—
1895, 30th June, .	2,034,000	52,000	—
„ 31st December,	2,075,000	41,000	—
1896, 30th June, .	2,128,000	53,000	—
„ 31st December,	2,166,000	38,000	—

The progress of the accumulation of small savings in Post Office and Trustee Banks in Ireland combined, is shown in Tables IV. and IV. (A.) From Table IV. it will be seen that there has been a very large increase in savings during the year, the total amount in the Savings Banks in Ireland being £8,319,000 in December, 1896, as compared with £7,678,000 for the corresponding period of the year 1895, and £6,959,000 in 1894, being an increase of £641,000 for the year, following the large increase of £719,000 in the preceding year, and £740,000 in 1894.

It will also be observed that there has been an increase in each year since 1876, and that the balance in Savings Banks on the 31st December last, was much more than double the amount to the credit of depositors at the close of the year 1876, the first year for which statistics are given in the Table. It may be added that it is the highest amount of which there is record; and that in each of the last three years the increase was more than double the largest increase in any previous year.

TABLE IV.—Showing the Totals of the Balances in Post Office and Trustee Savings Banks, given separately in Tables II. and III.

DATE.	Amount.	Yearly Increase.	Yearly Decrease.
	£	£	£
1876, 31st December,	3,277,000	230,000	—
1877, "	3,477,000	200,000	—
1878, "	3,486,000	9,000	—
1879, "	3,515,000	29,000	—
1880, "	3,635,000	120,000	—
1881, "	3,765,000	130,000	—
1882, "	4,003,000	238,000	—
1883, "	4,112,000	109,000	—
1884, "	4,321,000	209,000	—
1885, "	4,419,000	98,000	—
1886, "	4,710,000	291,000	—
1887, "	4,975,000	265,000	—
1888, "	5,268,000	293,000	—
1889, "	5,504,000	236,000	—
1890, "	5,696,000	192,000	—
1891, "	5,932,000	236,000	—
1892, "	6,171,000	239,000	—
1893, "	6,219,000	48,000	—
1894, "	6,950,000	740,000	—
1895, "	7,678,000	719,000	—
1896, "	8,319,000	641,000	—

Table IV. (A), in which the amount of small savings is set forth by half years, for the past eleven years, shows that during that period, with the exception of the first half of the year 1893, the half-yearly balances in Savings Banks in Ireland continuously increased, and that the respective increases in the several half-yearly periods of 1894, 1895, and 1896 far exceeded the increase in any preceding half year covered by the Table.

TABLE IV. (A).—Showing the Totals of the Balances in Post Office and Trustee Savings Banks, given separately in Tables II. (A) and III. (A).

DATE.	Amount.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1886, 30th June, .	4,586,000	167,000	—
" 31st December,	4,710,000	124,000	—
1887, 30th June, .	4,832,000	122,000	—
" 31st December,	4,975,000	143,000	—
1888, 30th June, .	5,140,000	165,000	—
" 31st December,	5,268,000	128,000	—
1889, 30th June, .	5,400,000	132,000	—
" 31st December,	5,504,000	104,000	—
1890, 30th June, .	5,620,000	116,000	—
" 31st December,	5,696,000	76,000	—
1891, 30th June, .	5,850,000	154,000	—
" 31st December,	5,932,000	82,000	—
1892, 30th June, .	6,027,000	95,000	—
" 31st December,	6,171,000	144,000	—
1893, 30th June, .	6,011,000	—	160,000
" 31st December,	6,219,000	208,000	—
1894, 30th June, .	6,627,000	408,000	—
" 31st December,	6,959,000	332,000	—
1895, 30th June, .	7,371,000	412,000	—
" 31st December,	7,678,000	307,000	—
1896, 30th June, .	8,047,000	369,000	—
" 31st December,	8,319,000	272,000	—

3. *Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock.**

It will be seen from Table V. that on the 31st December last the total amount of the Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock* on which dividends are payable at the Bank of Ireland, was £24,486,000, or £920,000 under the amount for the close of the year 1895, which was £594,000 under that for December, 1894.

* Guaranteed Land Stock was created in 1892.

[TABLE V.

TABLE V.—Showing the Amount of the Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock in Ireland at the under-mentioned dates; compiled from Returns furnished by the Governor of the Bank of Ireland.

DATE.	Amount.	Yearly Increase.	Yearly Decrease.
	£	£	£
1876, 31st December,	33,264,000	—	465,000
1877, "	32,561,000	—	703,000
1878, "	31,837,000	—	724,000
1879, "	32,440,000	603,000	—
1880, "	32,395,000	—	45,000
1881, "	31,611,000	—	784,000
1882, "	31,804,000	193,000	—
1883, "	30,942,000	—	862,000
1884, "	30,537,000	—	405,000
1885, "	29,689,000	—	848,000
1886, "	30,080,000	391,000	—
1887, "	29,839,000	—	241,000
1888, "	28,669,000*	—	1,170,000*
1889, "	27,898,000†	—	771,000†
1890, "	26,610,000	—	1,288,000
1891, "	25,784,000	—	826,000
1892, "	25,198,000	—	586,000
1893, "	24,509,000	—	689,000
1894, "	26,000,000	1,491,000	—
1895, "	25,406,000	—	594,000
1896, "	24,486,000	—	920,000

The following statement shows in round numbers the amount of each of these several descriptions of Stock included in the total amount given above for December, 1896:—

2½ per cent. Consols (1908),	£17,208,000
2½ per cent. Stock,	308,000
2½ " " (1905),	75,000
Local Loans, 5 per cent.,	622,000
India 8½ per cent. Stock,	2,505,000
" 8 " "	1,334,000
Guaranteed Land Stock (2½ per cent.),	2,684,000
Total,	£24,486,000

Table V. (A), made up by half-years, shows a decrease of £290,000 in December, 1896, as compared with the close of the previous half-year, at which date the amount was £630,000 under that for the 31st December, 1895.

* India 4 per cent. Stock ceased to bear interest on the 5th October, 1888, and was paid off.

† Reduced 3 per cent. Stock and 3 per cent. Consols ceased to bear interest on the 5th July, 1889.

[TABLE V. (A)]

TABLE V. (A).—Showing the Amount of Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock, in Ireland at the undermentioned dates; compiled from Returns furnished by the Governor of the Bank of Ireland.

DATE.	Amount.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1886, 30th June, .	30,484,000	795,000	—
„ 31st December,	30,080,000	—	404,000
1887, 30th June, .	30,779,000	699,000	—
„ 31st December,	29,839,000	—	940,000
1888, 30th June, .	28,856,000	—	983,000
„ 31st December,	28,669,000*	—	187,000*
1889, 30th June, .	28,219,000	—	450,000
„ 31st December,	27,898,000†	—	321,000†
1890, 30th June, .	27,517,000	—	381,000
„ 31st December,	26,610,000	—	907,000
1891, 30th June, .	26,609,000	—	1,000
„ 31st December,	25,784,000	—	825,000
1892, 30th June, .	26,042,000	258,000	—
„ 31st December,	25,198,000	—	844,000
1893, 30th June, .	25,283,000	85,000	—
„ 31st December,	24,509,000	—	774,000
1894, 30th June, .	25,375,000	866,000	—
„ 31st December,	26,000,000	625,000	—
1895, 30th June, .	25,824,000	—	176,000
„ 31st December,	25,406,000	—	418,000
1896, 30th June, .	24,776,000	—	630,000
„ 31st December,	24,486,000	—	290,000

4. Bank Note Circulation.

Dealing with the Bank Note circulation in a manner similar to that adopted with regard to the question of deposits and cash balances, it will be seen from Table VI. that there has been a decrease of £47,000 in the average circulation as compared with that for December, 1895, the average value having fallen from £6,459,000 in December, 1895, to £6,412,000 in the corresponding period of 1896, following a decrease of £42,000 in December, 1895, as compared with December, 1894.

* See note (*) page 15.

† See note (†), page 15.

TABLE VI.—Showing the Average Bank Note Circulation of the Six Banks of Issue in Ireland in December of the years 1886-96; compiled from Accounts published by the Registrar of Bank Returns, pursuant to the Act 8 & 9 Vic., cap. 37.*

PERIODS.	Amount.	Yearly Increase.	Yearly Decrease.
	£	£	£
1886, December, .	6,359,000	—	125,000
1887, " .	5,964,000	—	395,000
1888, " .	6,709,000	745,000	—
1889, " .	7,090,000	381,000	—
1890, " .	7,098,000	8,000	—
1891, " .	6,643,000	—	455,000
1892, " .	6,287,000	—	356,000
1893, " .	6,536,000	249,000	—
1894, " .	6,501,000	—	35,000
1895, " .	6,459,000	—	42,000
1896, " .	6,412,000	—	47,000

It will be observed from Table VI. (A.) that the usual increase of note circulation in December, as compared with June, took place in the year 1896; the increase on this occasion was £494,000, which is slightly over the average of the preceding ten years. In this connection it should be noted that the fall in June last was over the average fall between December and June.

* There are Six Banks in Ireland authorized to issue Notes, the statistics of which are included in this table. The total authorized issue of Notes for these Banks is £6,354,494.

[TABLE VI. (A.)

TABLE VI. (A.)—Showing the Average Bank Note Circulation of the Six Banks of Issue in Ireland, in the months of June and December of the years 1886-96; compiled from Accounts published by the Registrar of Bank Returns, pursuant to the Act 8 & 9 Vic., cap. 37.*

PERIOD.	Amount.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1886, June, .	5,726,000	—	758,000
" December, .	6,359,000	633,000	—
1887, June, .	5,681,000	—	678,000
" December, .	5,964,000	283,000	—
1888, June, .	5,758,000	—	206,000
" December, .	6,709,000	951,000	—
1889, June, .	6,515,000	—	194,000
" December, .	7,090,000	575,000	—
1890, June, .	6,634,000	—	456,000
" December, .	7,098,000	464,000	—
1891, June, .	6,165,000	—	933,000
" December, .	6,643,000	478,000	—
1892, June, .	5,965,000	—	678,000
" December, .	6,287,000	322,000	—
1893, June, .	6,088,000	—	199,000
" December, .	6,536,000	448,000	—
1894, June, .	6,007,000	—	529,000
" December, .	6,501,000	494,000	—
1895, June, .	6,248,000	—	253,000
" December, .	6,459,000	211,000	—
1896, June, .	5,918,000	—	541,000
" December, .	6,412,000	494,000	—

* See note, p. 17.

The results of the analysis of the foregoing tables are :—

- 1st. That in December, 1896, there was an increase of Deposits and Cash Balances in the Irish Joint Stock Banks as compared with the corresponding period in 1895, amounting to £230,000, and that the amount of such Deposits and Cash Balances in December last was the highest yet recorded.
- 2nd. That there was an increase of £480,000 in Deposits and Cash Balances in the Irish Joint

Stock Banks in December, 1896, as compared with June, 1896.

- 3rd. That there was an increase of £641,000 in the Deposits in Savings Banks in Ireland in December, 1896, as compared with the close of the year 1895, there having been an increase of £550,000 in the sum in the Post Office Savings Banks, and an increase of £91,000 in the amount in the Trustee Banks.
- 4th. That there was an increase of £272,000 in the Deposits in Savings Banks in December, 1896, as compared with the amount for June in that year.
- 5th. That the amount (in December, 1896) of Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock on which dividends are payable at the Bank of Ireland, shows a decrease of £920,000 as compared with the amount at the close of the preceding year.
- 6th. That in December, 1896, there was a decrease of £290,000 in the amount of Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock on which dividends are payable at the Bank of Ireland, as compared with June of the same year.
- 7th. That in December, 1896, there was a decrease of £47,000 in the average amount of Bank Note circulation, as compared with the corresponding period of 1895.
- 8th. That there was an increase of £494,000 in the Bank Note circulation in December, 1896, as compared with June of the same year.

5. *Railway Statistics.*

Table VII., compiled from Returns furnished by the authorities of the several Companies, gives the receipts of Irish Railways, week by week, for the year 1896 (52 weeks), compared with those for 1895.

A review of the weekly traffic returns shows that in 21 weeks the receipts exceeded those for the corresponding weeks of the year 1895, and in 31 weeks the receipts were below those for the corresponding periods, with the net result that the total receipts for the 52 weeks* of the year 1896 amounted to £3,364,671, a decrease of £3,611, or 0.1 per cent., as compared with the same number of weeks of the preceding year. If, however, the intercalary week be included, the total amount received is £3,412,568. The total receipts for the year 1896 (52 weeks*) were £3,364,671 as above stated, as against £3,368,282 in 1895, £3,303,739 in 1894, £3,181,043 in 1893, £3,103,651 in 1892, and £3,147,458 in 1891, when the receipts were higher than those for any previous year.

Table VIII. gives some of the principal statistics for Irish Railways during the ten years 1886-95, for comparison with the aggregate figures at foot of Table VII. for 1895-96.

The figures in Table VIII. show the revised amounts as given in the reports of the Board of Trade. The unrevised receipts compiled from the weekly returns furnished to me by the Railway Companies are slightly in excess of the revised amounts, apparently owing to their including some miscellaneous items which do not properly come within the term "traffic receipts"; the difference, however, is small in proportion to the total amount.

* It will be observed that in Table VII. returns for 53 weeks are given for the year 1896, the insertion of an intercalary week being occasionally necessary in order that the annual series may correspond with the calendar year.

[Continued on p. 22.]

TABLE VIII.—RAILWAY TRAFFIC STATISTICS, IRELAND, 1885-95.

(Compiled from Returns issued by the Board of Trade).

Year.	Length of Lines open.	Number of Passengers.	Receipts.					
			Passenger Traffic and Mail.	Goods Traffic.	Total.	Actual Income.	Actual Expenditure.	Average Receipts per Mile.
	Miles.		£	£	£	£	£	£
1885	2,613	18,540,000	1,481,000	1,379,000	2,860,000	—	4,000	1,089
1886	2,620	18,302,000	1,501,000	1,371,000	2,872,000	50,000	—	1,091
1887	2,630	19,242,000	1,512,000	1,388,000	2,900,000	50,000	—	1,090
1888	2,642	20,238,000	1,592,000	1,389,000	2,981,000	281,000	—	1,120
1889	2,642	20,681,000	1,630,000	1,422,000	3,052,000	81,000	—	1,142
1890	2,652	21,455,000	1,672,000	1,468,000	3,140,000	75,000	—	1,189
1891	2,660	21,284,000	1,685,000	1,400,000	3,085,000	—	33,000	1,165
1892	2,702	22,804,000	1,807,000	1,461,000	3,268,000	62,000	—	1,140
1893	2,714	22,272,000	1,758,000	1,548,000	3,306,000	200,000	—	1,198
1894	2,742	22,296,000	1,809,000	1,564,000	3,373,000	87,000	—	1,225

In conclusion, I have to return my thanks to the Authorities of the various Joint Stock Banks of Ireland, and of the Post Office Savings Bank Department; the Comptroller-General of the National Debt Office; the Governor of the Bank of Ireland, and the Chairmen and Directors of the several Railway Companies, for the valuable information which they so promptly afforded in connexion with the compilation of these Statistics for your Excellency.

I have the honour to remain,

Your Excellency's faithful servant,

THOMAS W. GRIMSHAW,

Registrar-General.

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,

CHARLEMONT HOUSE,

Dublin, 4th February, 1897.

DUBLIN CASTLE,

16th *February*, 1897.

SIR,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, forwarding, for submission to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, the Report on the Statistics of Banking in Ireland for the half-year ended 31st December, 1896.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

D. HARREL.

The Registrar-General,

Charlemont House,

Rutland-square.

BANKING AND RAILWAY STATISTICS, IRELAND (DECEMBER, 1896).

TABLE VII.—COMPARATIVE RETURN OF WEEKLY RAILWAY RECEIPTS IN IRELAND FOR THE YEARS 1895-96.

Day of Week in 1895-96.	Date.	Receipts in £1000.						Misc. spec.		Receipts per Mile.		Receipts in £1000.									
		Total.		Increase in 1895 as compared with 1894.		Decrease in 1895 as compared with 1896.						Total.		Increase in 1895 as compared with 1894.		Decrease in 1895 as compared with 1896.					
		1895.	1896.	Total.	Per Cent.	Total.	Per Cent.					1895.	1896.	Total.	Per Cent.	Total.	Per Cent.				
Friday.																					
24	January 3.	41,554	56,921	217	0.4	—	—	3,688	2,378	37.6	18.6	48,804	59,281	327	0.6	—	—				
25	" 10.	45,224	56,556	3,661	8.0	—	—	"	"	38.9	19.6	50,203	59,671	3,688	7.3	—	—				
26	" 17.	49,520	56,748	4,128	8.3	—	—	"	"	40.0	20.7	54,679	59,918	7,003	12.6	—	—				
27	" 24.	51,509	56,420	4,211	8.1	—	—	"	"	41.1	21.4	56,502	59,739	6,835	11.5	—	—				
28	February 7.	47,030	55,698	4,823	10.1	—	—	"	"	38.7	18.7	52,513	58,750	5,863	11.1	—	—				
29	" 14.	45,120	55,506	5,013	11.1	—	—	"	"	37.6	17.7	50,548	58,584	13,715	27.1	—	—				
30	" 21.	50,380	55,651	3,623	7.2	—	—	"	"	40.8	20.9	55,781	58,670	31,694	54.0	—	—				
31	" 28.	51,486	55,527	—	—	6,219	2.0	"	"	42.1	22.2	56,768	58,581	40,512	69.2	—	—				
32	March 6.	51,541	55,255	814	0.9	—	—	"	"	42.2	22.2	56,768	58,581	31,694	54.0	—	—				
33	" 13.	51,743	54,837	—	—	9,750	4.6	3,704	"	42.3	22.3	56,870	58,484	50,091	86.4	—	—				
34	" 20.	50,960	54,720	—	—	9,252	3.7	"	"	41.0	21.4	55,771	58,430	38,455	66.3	—	—				
35	" 27.	50,890	54,620	—	—	9,251	1.0	"	"	40.9	21.3	55,621	58,381	37,524	66.8	—	—				
36	April 3.	54,855	61,125	—	—	2,533	4.1	"	"	42.7	22.6	59,277	66,483	14,708	24.8	—	—				
37	" 10.	57,350	60,149	15,503	17.8	—	—	"	"	43.8	23.5	62,322	68,443	22,946	36.9	—	—				
38	" 17.	57,573	60,087	—	—	2,807	5.1	"	"	43.9	23.6	62,545	68,364	23,353	37.4	—	—				
39	" 24.	57,822	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	44.0	23.7	62,768	68,183	23,761	37.9	—	—				
40	May 1.	57,737	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	44.1	23.8	62,994	68,002	24,169	38.4	—	—				
41	" 8.	57,527	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	44.2	23.9	63,220	67,823	24,577	38.9	—	—				
42	" 15.	57,317	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	44.3	24.0	63,446	67,652	24,985	39.4	—	—				
43	" 22.	57,107	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	44.4	24.1	63,672	67,501	25,393	39.9	—	—				
44	" 29.	56,897	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	44.5	24.2	63,898	67,350	25,801	40.4	—	—				
45	June 5.	56,687	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	44.6	24.3	64,124	67,200	26,209	40.9	—	—				
46	" 12.	56,477	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	44.7	24.4	64,350	67,049	26,617	41.4	—	—				
47	" 19.	56,267	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	44.8	24.5	64,576	66,898	27,025	41.9	—	—				
48	" 26.	56,057	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	44.9	24.6	64,802	66,747	27,433	42.4	—	—				
49	July 3.	55,847	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	45.0	24.7	65,028	66,596	27,841	42.9	—	—				
50	" 10.	55,637	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	45.1	24.8	65,254	66,445	28,249	43.4	—	—				
51	" 17.	55,427	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	45.2	24.9	65,480	66,294	28,657	43.9	—	—				
52	" 24.	55,217	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	45.3	25.0	65,706	66,143	29,065	44.4	—	—				
53	" 31.	55,007	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	45.4	25.1	65,932	66,000	29,473	44.9	—	—				
54	August 7.	54,797	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	45.5	25.2	66,158	65,849	29,881	45.4	—	—				
55	" 14.	54,587	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	45.6	25.3	66,384	65,698	30,289	45.9	—	—				
56	" 21.	54,377	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	45.7	25.4	66,610	65,547	30,697	46.4	—	—				
57	" 28.	54,167	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	45.8	25.5	66,836	65,396	31,105	46.9	—	—				
58	September 4.	53,957	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	45.9	25.6	67,062	65,245	31,513	47.4	—	—				
59	" 11.	53,747	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	46.0	25.7	67,288	65,094	31,921	47.9	—	—				
60	" 18.	53,537	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	46.1	25.8	67,514	64,943	32,329	48.4	—	—				
61	" 25.	53,327	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	46.2	25.9	67,740	64,792	32,737	48.9	—	—				
62	October 2.	53,117	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	46.3	26.0	67,966	64,641	33,145	49.4	—	—				
63	" 9.	52,907	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	46.4	26.1	68,192	64,490	33,553	49.9	—	—				
64	" 16.	52,697	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	46.5	26.2	68,418	64,339	33,961	50.4	—	—				
65	" 23.	52,487	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	46.6	26.3	68,644	64,188	34,369	50.9	—	—				
66	November 6.	52,277	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	46.7	26.4	68,870	64,037	34,777	51.4	—	—				
67	" 13.	52,067	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	46.8	26.5	69,096	63,886	35,185	51.9	—	—				
68	" 20.	51,857	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	46.9	26.6	69,322	63,735	35,593	52.4	—	—				
69	December 4.	51,647	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	47.0	26.7	69,548	63,584	36,001	52.9	—	—				
70	" 11.	51,437	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	47.1	26.8	69,774	63,433	36,409	53.4	—	—				
71	" 18.	51,227	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	47.2	26.9	70,000	63,282	36,817	53.9	—	—				
72	" 25.	51,017	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	47.3	27.0	70,226	63,131	37,225	54.4	—	—				
73	Jan. 1, 1897.	50,807	60,002	—	—	3,011	5.2	"	"	47.4	27.1	70,452	62,980	37,633	54.9	—	—				

* Owing to the closing of Accounts at the end of the Calendar half-year, the amounts entered for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th weeks, respectively, are those of the Railway, do not in all cases represent the receipts for those days.

† Easter Week.
‡ Whist Week.
§ Including the Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford Railway Receipts for 11 days.
|| Interim Week.
¶ 25 days.